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J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D , M.R.C.P D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F O R T H E Y E A R E N D I N G

31 S T . D E C E M B E R , 1 9 4 8

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Borough of Clitheroe.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1948, which in accordance with suggestions of the Ministry of Health is again in an abbreviated form.

As and from 5th July, 1948, the Maternity, etc. Services were transferred to the County Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFFMEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (PART-TIME)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

CYRIL ROYLE, M.B., CH.B., D.C.H. (PART-TIME)
(Transferred to Lancashire County Council 5th July, 1948)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

EDWARD COATES, A.R.S.I.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.
(Transferred to Lancashire County Council 5th July, 1948)

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION - 11,890

During the year, 211 Live Births were registered (108 Male and 103 Female) giving a BIRTH RATE for 1948 of 17.7 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 4.2 below that of 1947 and an increase of 0.3 on the average for the previous five years (1943-1947).

Ten Stillbirths (5 male and 5 female) were registered, giving a STILL BIRTH RATE of 45 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, an increase of 21 per 1,000 on 1947.

No Maternal Deaths were reported during the year.

During the same period, 179 deaths were registered (90 Male and 89 Female) giving a DEATH RATE of 15.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a figure which is 0.8 per 1,000 above that of 1947 and 0.6 above the previous five years average.

The Deaths included 5 from Pneumonia; 8 from Bronchitis; 5 from Tuberculosis; 31 from Cancer; 70 from Organic Heart Disease; 7 from Nephritis; and 1 from Measles.

There were 8 Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age) during the year, giving an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 37 per 1,000 live births registered, an increase of 12 per 1,000 on the figure for 1947, and an increase of 6 per 1,000 on the average for the previous five years.

STILL BIRTHS

As mentioned previously, ten Still Births occurred during the year, giving a Rate of 45 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, an increase on the previous year.

All the children were legitimate. Full enquiries were made and it was found that in all cases there had been adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

266 cases of Notifiable Disease were reported during the year, an increase of 13 cases on the previous year. Of this total, 240 notifications were received in respect of Measles and Whooping Cough, some 203 of the former and 37 of the latter being received. One death was attributable to Measles.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year as compared with 5 in 1947, and again no deaths were reported.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred during 1948. The baby was treated at home and vision was unimpaired.

As in the previous year no notifications were received in respect of Diphtheria. The Immunisation Campaign was continued and there was again a gratifying response on the part of parents.

Up to and including 4th July, when control passed to the County Authority, 76 children were immunised against Diphtheria, and in addition, 32 re-inforcing injections were given.

The arrangements for the hospitalisation of infectious cases have remained as in previous years.

SCABIES

Only two cases of this disease were found in school children during the year, and these received the necessary treatment at the School Clinic.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

There is a Nursing Association in the town, employing three Nurse Midwives, this being taken over by the County Authority in July, 1948.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is now held bi-weekly (Tuesday and Wednesday) in rooms at the Castle House, the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, Dr. Cyril Royle, attending these Sessions for consultations with mothers.

The abnormal Midwifery and Ante Natal Services in the Borough have continued satisfactory during the present year.

A Midwives Clinic, at which cases are booked by midwives, and blood pressure, urine tests, etc. carried out, was held weekly (Thursday at 2 p.m., in rooms at the Congregational School, Moor Lane, Clitheroe. At this Clinic a trained Physiotherapist is also in attendance and supervises an Exercise Class for expectant mothers.

The Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mr. R. M. Corbet, F.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.S.I. of Preston Royal Infirmary, attends the Ante Natal Clinic on the second Thursday of each month for pre-natal examinations and also post-natal examination of cases following hospital confinements.

Suitable cases are still referred by Mr. Corbet to Preston Royal Infirmary under an arrangement with the Local Authority.

There is also an agreement under the Scheme that in the event of an emergency, in which it is felt that the patient is not fit to travel to Preston Infirmary, Mr. Corbet will visit Clitheroe to deal with the emergency, or to advise.

Facilities are available also for the Obstetrician to bring out blood from Preston in such severe cases of Post-Partum Haemorrhage as are judged too ill to be moved.

The arrangement continued with the Lancashire County Authority whereby expectant mothers from the Clitheroe Rural District may attend the Midwives Clinic and the Consultant Clinic. Mothers from the Bowland Rural District, if they so desire, may attend the Ante-Natal Exercise Class.

During 1948, a considerable number of midwifery cases have been admitted to the Maternity Ward of the Coplow View Hospital, Clitheroe.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was found to be necessary under Section 47 of the above Act during the year.

LABORATORY WORK

This shows no change on previous years, specimens being examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

This is from neighbouring upland sources and is of a high

degree of purity and adequate at the source. The storage capacity of the existing reservoirs, however, is not considered as sufficient, but it is hoped to increase the supply from an artesian source in the near future.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of the town's water supply are made monthly with satisfactory results.

All houses in the Borough are supplied from Public Mains direct with one exception, this an old house on the extreme north boundary of the Borough which is supplied from a well.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

No change during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There still remain in the Borough 13 Pail Closets and some 1,358 Slopwater or "Tippler" Closets.

The prevalent shortages of materials and man-power have rendered impossible the proposed conversion scheme to deal with this obsolete accommodation.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION, ETC.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse (excluding Salvage loads) during the year :-

1.	House and Shop Refuse removed to Destructor...	2,375 loads
2.	Offal removed from Government Slaughterhouse..	162 loads
3.	Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.....	250 loads
4.	Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	50 loads
		<u>2,837 loads</u>

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (2375 loads) amounted to 3070 tons 8 cwts 0 qrs.

House Refuse is collected at weekly intervals and this work has been fairly well maintained throughout the year. Special attention is given to the collection of all forms of Salvage including Kitchen Waste - this latter being collected from communal bins three times weekly.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of

and the income derived therefrom during year ended 31st December, 1948.

	T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	:	S	:	D
Waste Paper (all grades).	98.	12.	1.	0.	628	:	13	:	1
Ferrous Metals.....	9.	7.	0.	0.	9.	:	7	:	0
Baled Destructor Tins....	36.	6.	1.	0.	57	:	3	:	11
Non-Ferrous Metals.....		10.	1.	27.	6	:	8	:	0
Textiles.....	1.	14.	0.	0.	14.	:	9	:	0
Bottles and Jars.....	7.	6.	1.	0.	20	:	19	:	7
Kitchen Waste.....	201.	5.	1.	0.	301	:	17	:	8
	355.	1.	1.	27.	£1038	:	18	:	3

FACTORIES AND SHOPS

Regular inspection of Factory premises and Shops was carried out by the Public Health Staff and it was found necessary to issue notices for several minor defects only during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are some twenty-five Dairy Farms on the Register with accommodation for approximately 400 cattle. The standard of cleanliness and methods of milk production has been found, as a result of frequent inspections, to be generally satisfactory.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, eight dealers are distributing T.T. Milk; three "Accredited" Milk; and two "Pasteurised" Milk.

BAKEHOUSES

These remain as in previous Reports. As a result of frequent inspection and contact with employers and employees in the baking trade, the standard of cleanliness has been well maintained during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Public Abattoir is still used as a Government Centre for the distribution of meat in the area covered by the Clitheroe Borough and the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, and the centralised slaughter of animals for food has facilitated the work of meat inspection.

Food Shops and Market Stalls have also been frequently visited during the year under review.

The following shows the amount of food condemned and removed from the Food Supply during the year :-

MEAT

37 Beast Carcasses	12,210 lbs.	13 Calf Carcasses	681 lbs.
2 Sides of Beef	458 lbs.	13 Heads & Plucks	119 lbs.
14 Hindquarters	1,590 lbs.	Carcase Parts	45 lbs.
9 Part Hindquarters	331 lbs.	1 Calf Head	6 lbs.
18 Forequarters	2,009 lbs.	31 Sheep Carcasses	967 lbs.
4 Part Forequarters	222 lbs.	35 Heads & Plucks	228 lbs.
Carcase Parts	259 lbs.	998 Sheep Livers	1,616 lbs.
Liver Trimmings	6,621 lbs.	Carcase Parts	93 lbs.
57 Sets of Offal	2,421 lbs.	12 Sheep Flucks	34 lbs.
47 Heads and Tongues	1,233 lbs.	Sheep Fat	10 lbs.
Beef Fat	737 lbs.	1 Pig Carcase	272 lbs.
25 Skirts	48 lbs.	1 Pig Head	16 lbs.
15 Hearts	59 lbs.	1 Pig Pluck	7 lbs.
270 Lites and 34 Melts	1,841 lbs.	Carcase Parts	18 lbs.
Udder	670 lbs.	1 Pig Liver	2 lbs.
8 Tails	15 lbs.		

OTHER FOODS.

Canned Corned Beef 372 lbs; Canned Corned Mutton 60 lbs; Meat 5 tins; Jam 5 tins; Vegetables 76 tins; Fish 14 tins; Fruit 14 tins; Milk 19 tins; Prunes 160 lbs; Pears 40 lbs; Fish 98 lbs; Potted Meat 21 lbs; Walnuts 4½ lbs; Oatmeal 2 lbs; 1 pkt. biscuits.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:

	Cattle including Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed (if known)....	970	529	4422	10 X
Number inspected.....	970	529	4422	10
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned....	18	13	31	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	492	3	998	2
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B	52.58%	3.02%	23.27%	20%
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned....	19	Nil	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	407	Nil	Nil	1
% of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	43.92%	Nil	Nil	20%

X - 97 Cottagers' Pigs were slaughtered and inspected in addition to those shown above.

PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS AND GOOD HABITS
AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

There has been no widespread lice infestation in the Borough so that no extensive campaign to combat lousiness has been called for.

The Department's Nurse has again carried out regular cleanliness inspections in the Schools, and the standard was found to be high. Only in one or two cases was it found necessary to issue instructions to parents.

Talks on Personal Hygiene and the Formation of Good Habits regarding cleanliness are given by the Teachers in the Schools.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employs one full-time Rodent Operator to carry out the work of disinfection under the direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The town is divided into eight sections and regular tours of inspection of premises within these sections are carried out by the Operator, complete records being kept of all infestations and treatments carried out.

During the year 44 premises were found to be rat infested and the necessary treatment was carried out with a resultant kill of 1,896 rats. Block treatments of premises were carried out in several instances. Eighteen sets of premises were also treated for infestation by mice.

Special attention was again given to the Sewers in the Borough area, and two Maintenance Treatments were carried out.

VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sanitary Inspectors

House to House Inspections.....	30
House to House Re-Inspections.....	4
Other House Inspections.....	325
Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses) ..	260
Dairy Farm Inspections.....	254
Visits to Government Slaughterhouse.....	586
Visits to Food Shops and Stalls.....	228
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground).....	6
Visits to Infected Houses.....	18
Visits re. Work in Progress.....	62
Miscellaneous Visits re. Complaints, etc....	869
Houses Disinfected.....	12

Health Visitor

(Visits up to and including 4th July, 1948).

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year.....	119
Second Visits to Infants under 1 year.....	141
Visits to Children 1 - 5 years.....	263
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	19
Visits re. Stillbirths.....	8
Miscellaneous Visits.....	38

HOUSING CONDITIONS

It has not yet been found possible to proceed with any major schemes of demolition or reconditioning insanitary property, and only the more serious defects have been given attention during the past year.

Clitheroe, like most towns, experiences an acute shortage of housing accommodation for all classes of the population and the Authority is making every endeavour to accelerate it's Housing Programme.

During the year under review, 27 traditional permanent houses and 41 permanent pre-fabricated houses were handed over for occupation.

At the end of the year work still continued on the Henthorn Site (traditional) and the Wilkin Street Site (permanent pre-fabricated).

OVERCROWDING

The shortage of housing accommodation and the occupation by more than one family of the smaller dwelling houses has undoubtedly resulted in some overcrowding, but without a special survey of all working class property it is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the number of overcrowded dwellings.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	Number of houses erected during the year.....	68
1a.	Number of houses in course of erection at end of year.	48
2.	Number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects.....	56
3.	Number of inspections made for this purpose.....	62
4.	Number of houses found to be unfit for habitation.....	Nil.
5.	Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	51
6.	Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or Officers....	45
7.	Number of dwellings in respect of which action was taken under Statutory Powers under Public Health and Housing Acts.....	1
8.	Number of Overcrowding cases dealt with	Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1948 (CIVILIANS ONLY)

Disease	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	To Hosp	Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	-	-	1	-	2	7	4	-	-	-	1	-	5	-
Measles	203	4	21	16	29	39	91	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	37	1	6	6	7	2	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	5
Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	6	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
TOTALS	266	6	27	23	36	43	112	5	-	5	3	5	1	12	11

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1948

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
All causes - Certified Uncertified.	90	89	179
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.....	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	1	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	-	2	2
Influenza.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	1	1
Acute Encephalitis.....	-	-	-
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries.....	4	2	6
Cancer (all forms).....	16	15	31
Diabetes.....	-	-	-
Heart Disease.....	35	35	70
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	3	3	6
Bronchitis.....	3	5	8
Pneumonia.....	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	-	-	-
Appendicitis.....	-	1	1
Nephritis.....	3	4	7
Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes.....	-	-	-
Suicide.....	1	3	4
Road Traffic Accidents.....	1	-	1
Other Violent Causes.....	1	2	3
All Other Causes.....	16	14	30
TOTALS	90	89	179

